

Remarks

Claims 1-23 are currently pending in the Application.

Allowable Claims

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the Examiner's indication of allowability as to Claims 1-21.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the Examiner's indication of allowability as to claims 1-21. Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejection of Claims 22-23 and disagree that these claims are obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,229,694B1 and U.S. Patent No. 6,231,371B1. However, in the interest of moving this application to issue, Applicants have cancelled Claims 22-23 without prejudice, expressly reserving the right to present these or any other rejected claims or claims directed to other disclosed subject matter in a future divisional or continuation application.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

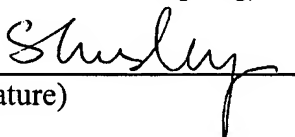
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December 9, 2005

(Date of Deposit)

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(Signature)

December 9, 2005

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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